

Unfortunately, Dr. Rock does not follow some Anglican moralists in pressing this discussion of the meaning of "natural" to its conclusion—the vindication of the morality of artificial contraception. The elimination of the use of appliances in family planning will be a major step forward—but only in the realm of practice. In the view of many the theological issue of contraception has already been settled, and the real question in dispute is not this, but the nature of Man's sexuality and the purpose of marriage. It is good to read such an eirenic and liberal book as this by a Roman Catholic, and it is to be welcomed as a sign of a change in the climate of religious discussion of this subject. But if any time has come, it is that for a complete theological revaluation of Roman Catholic teaching and doctrine relating to sex and marriage. Doctrinal agreement depends, not upon research, but upon the establishment of common understanding and terminology; to most non-Romans, Rome still fails to communicate adequately where sexual and matrimonial matters are concerned.

SHERWIN BAILEY

Himes, Norman E. Preface [1963] by **Alan F. Guttmacher**. *Medical History of Contraception*. New York, 1963. Gamut Press. Pp. liii + 521. Price \$7.50.

NORMAN E. HIMES'S *Medical History of Contraception* was first published in England in 1936. It is the classic history of birth control methods: it ranges from population control in pre-literate societies, through the techniques used in antiquity—dealing separately with Western and Eastern cultures, the Middle Ages and early modern times to "the democratization of technique since 1800 in England and the United States" and "democratization and its future effects."

The first edition was one of the *Medical Aspects of Human Fertility* series produced by the National Committee on Maternal Health Inc., whose present Medical Director, Dr. Christopher Tietze, has done much to bring about this republication of the *History*.

The new edition is enriched by a twenty-page Preface by Dr Alan F. Guttmacher, President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, who disclaims any attempt to bring the book up

to date; this, he says, is a task which would require "a volume of equal size and awaits a scholar of Dr. Himes's patient learning."

Dr. Guttmacher does, however, give a most useful review of the chief milestones between 1936 and 1963. He starts with the legal position in the United States, from Dr. Hannah Stone's well-known court case in 1936 following the seizure by the Customs authorities of a packet of diaphragms from Japan, to the stringent anti-contraception laws of Massachusetts and of Connecticut, in which State a case was pending for re-argument at the time this Preface was written.

Under "Governmental Attitudes" Dr. Guttmacher contrasts the wide ranges of official policies in countries with a rapidly expanding population: the positive attitude of Japan, India, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Egypt, Korea and Taiwan on the one hand with the almost complete absence of fertility control policies in the Republics of South and Central America, most of Africa and the Phillipines. He also gives the position in the nations with more or less stable populations and suggests that in the Iron Curtain countries contraception and abortion policies are influenced by considerations of maternal welfare rather than by the fear of overpopulation.

There is a brief statement of the present-day attitudes of the great religions of the world, and a history of the development of the leading family planning organizations. A comparison is made of the degrees of acceptability of different contraceptive methods as shown by surveys made in 1933-34 (withdrawal; douche; condom) and 1955 (condom; diaphragm; rhythm) and Dr. Guttmacher forecasts that an equally remarkable difference would probably be apparent in a survey made in 1980.

Naturally enough, Dr. Guttmacher gives a generous amount of space to the latest developments; further studies in menstrual rhythm, the revival in plastics of the silver Grafenberg ring and, of course, the pill—though in this case other products besides those he names have been launched since this essay was written. Looking to the future, he suggests that other substances for inhibiting ovulation are on their way and that "immuno-reproduction" research with the

aim of producing temporary infertility in the male is an important field for further study.

Altogether, this is a very valuable reprint of an important book.

K. H.

POPULATION

Milbank Memorial Fund. *Emerging Techniques in Population Research*. New York, 1963. Milbank Memorial Fund. Pp. 307. Price \$2.00.

"EMERGING TECHNIQUES" is perhaps not a bad phrase with which to describe the development of demographic analyses because, as with emerging countries, their progress is slow, difficult, diverse and hampered by intractable obstacles. Even so, it was a good idea that the Milbank Memorial Fund should devote its 1962 meeting to a study of such matters, and particularly that sections on mortality, and upon electronic machines, should be included.

M. Bourgeois-Pichat in his contribution describes mortality as a "remote" subject—would that it could remain so!—but provides an interesting example of factor analysis in an effort to delineate death rates, when subdivided by sex and age, as the sum of a small number of clearly-defined components. Drs. Kitagawa and Hauser describe the methods used in a current study of mortality differentials; these methods include (a) tracing the individual connections between census returns and death certificates, and (b) relating the characteristics of small geographical areas to the socio-economic status of the residents. Another study which will follow the same broad plan of analysis of vital statistics in a period adjacent to a census is the American Public Health Association Monograph Programme, described here by Mr. Mortimer Spiegelman. This programme, which was just beginning at the time of its description in this paper, does not however attempt to create a detailed personal linkage between the records of the living, the dying and the sick. Finally, in this section, there is a paper by Dr. Ansley Coale in which what he calls the "quasi-stable" age distribution is discussed: this relates to a population in which fertility is constant but mortality is changing. The technique of its use, which is allied to that of Lotka's stable population, is approximate and of value only in relation to

areas in which population statistics are (or were at the period it is desired to study) rare or non-existent.

The papers in the book which are devoted to electronic computers deal with their significance in relation to three kinds of demographic data, viz., censuses, health and vital statistics, and migratory movements. So far as censuses are concerned, Mr. Brunsman shows how the use of the computer has not only speeded up the production of results but also improved their range and quality. Moreover, research is facilitated and new fields of inquiry opened up. One form of research now made more readily possible than before is the construction and analysis of models, and this is the kind of study that Dr. Daniel Price envisages for migration also, with the aim of testing various theories in order to establish how meaningful they are. Dr. Linder and Mr. Simmons, whilst equally aware of the potentialities for similar research in vital statistics, see also possible dangers such as an excessive preoccupation with technique or with the production of vast masses of useless information. Their contribution is specially valuable in showing the pitfalls one must always expect from over-enthusiasm in demographic research, and that a new pattern of thought must be developed in order to deal with the new processing-power of the computer.

Eight papers in the volume are concerned with fertility in one form or another, and these are sub-classed into four connected with the family and four not so connected. Of the latter, one by Dr. Kiser and Messrs. Grabill and Schachter deals with the fertility side of the American Public Health Association research programme corresponding to that for mortality described by Mr. Spiegelman. What is new here is not the technique but the method of approach, with its special emphasis on the relationship of fertility to public health. Dr. Ryder speaks of "the translation model of demographic change," and is thus only rather distantly concerned with fertility as such. The translation with which he is concerned is that from cohort analysis to period-of-time analysis and vice versa; he constructs a mathematical model to show their general relationships, the ultimate object (not yet achieved) being a generalization of Lotka's